

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on United States Commercial Space Policy Guidelines

February 12, 1991

The President has approved U.S. commercial space policy guidelines aimed at expanding private sector investment in space by the market-driven commercial space sector. These guidelines are the result of a 9-month interagency review of the commercial space sector conducted by the Vice President and the National Space Council.

The U.S. commercial space policy guide-

lines recognize that a robust commercial space sector has the potential to generate new technologies, markets, jobs, and other important economic benefits to the Nation. The guidelines contain new provisions and definitions of key concepts to provide for more effective implementation of the national space policy by U.S. Agencies.

Exchange With Reporters on the Persian Gulf Conflict Prior to Discussions With Defense Minister Thomas King of the United Kingdom

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Q. Going to talk about the ground war—possible?

The Defense Minister. Are you going on, Mr. President, or—

The President. No, I'm not. I defer to guests because I don't take questions in here. And that's Helen Thomas [United Press International], I think. [Laughter] I don't look over, so I can't see, but I—

Q. We've got a better one for you.

The President. She knows very well that I don't take questions here. But foreign guests are encouraged to, if you'd like to.

The Defense Minister. Well, I just said to the President here—and the Vice President, who I had the pleasure of meeting last week in London, and with Dick Cheney, General Brent Scowcroft—the very close measure of the very close cooperation we have. I'm very grateful for it. We've been very appreciative of the close contact also we have. And I was going to say to the President that we have great admiration for General Schwarzkopf. We're working very closely with him. We have our 1st Armored Division, which is with now the U.S. 7th Corps. And General Franks is commanding that. And we have General Smith working under him. And it's a measure of

the cooperation that we have. I think both at sea, in the air, and on land that it's been an excellent illustration of very close cooperation. And I welcome the chance to meet the President. And one feels one knows these issues so well, communicating through various channels.

Q. Mr. King, do you think it's too soon to go to a ground war? Do you agree with the President on that?

The Defense Minister. It's a need to see some significant reduction in Iraq's military capability. You can't put precise figures on it, but there certainly needs to be a reduction in their capability. I know the President has always made very clear something that we support very strongly, that we want to see a tilt in the balance of military advantage so that when our forces embark—the allied coalition forces embark on that land campaign that the balance of advantage is with them. That will help us to minimize the casualties on our own side and actually hopefully minimize the casualties for the people of Kuwait who are going to be part of the battleground.

Q. Is there concern, though, on the other hand, that if the air war is protracted that you start to lose some of the international